

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6408**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1112

**NOTE PREPARED:** Dec 6, 2012

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Write-in Candidates.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Hamm

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X GENERAL  
X DEDICATED  
FEDERAL

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** *Write-in Candidates-* The bill provides that a write-in candidate may not be affiliated with a political party. The bill provides that a person may not knowingly or intentionally authorize, finance, sponsor, or participate in the preparation, distribution, or broadcast of paid political advertising or campaign material that represents that a write-in candidate in any election is affiliated with a political party.

*Civil Penalties-* The bill provides certain exceptions to this prohibition, and provides civil penalties for violations.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2013.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** *Write-in Candidates-* This provision should reduce the administrative time used by the Election Division to check whether a write-in candidate has the party affiliation claimed on the candidate's application to be a write-in candidate. The saved staff time could be devoted to other items of business.

**Explanation of State Revenues:** *Civil Penalties-* The state Campaign Finance Enforcement Account may increase slightly from future penalties assessed as a result of the bill.

Under the bill, a person that knowingly and intentionally authorized, financed, sponsored, or participated in the preparation, distribution, or broadcast of paid political advertising or campaign material that represents that a *write-in* candidate is affiliated with a political party would be subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$500 plus any investigative costs incurred by the Election Division.

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** *Write-in Candidates-* This provision should reduce the administrative time used by county election boards to check whether a write-in candidate has the party affiliation claimed on the candidate's application to be a write-in candidate. The saved staff time could be devoted to other items of business.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:** *Civil Penalties-* As stated above, local campaign finance enforcement accounts may increase slightly from future penalties assessed as result of the bill. The maximum penalty assessed would be \$500 plus reimbursement of any costs incurred by a county election board investigating alleged violations.

**State Agencies Affected:** Indiana Election Division.

**Local Agencies Affected:** County election boards.

**Information Sources:**

**Fiscal Analyst:** Chris Baker, 317-232-9851.